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ism. The attitude of M. Guyot towards socialism has already been indicated in his *Tyrannie Socialiste*, and in the present work he returns to the charge. Everything which savors of extension of government power is socialistic in its nature. The sole function of the state is to insure the individual security and liberty in the place in which he works (p. 311). Government activity should be limited so as to "bring a minimum of taxes, minimum of state privileges, minimum of government, minimum of administration" (p. 309). All movement towards socialism is, in his opinion, a negation of the principle of "economy of effort" which the economic evolution has been attempting to realize, and is therefore reprehensible. His opposition to the extension of government functions shows in his statement that "workmen's protection legislation" is unnecessary and unwarranted (p. 278). At the same time there is neither necessity nor justification for strikes; the workman always loses. A natural law ensures that where business is good wages will be high, and that where business is poor they will be low. No other principle need be sought (pp. 237-243).

The decided convictions of M. Guyot render his conclusions somewhat biased. He does excellent work in indicating the vagaries of the constructive side of socialistic thinking; his sweeping assertion that this thinking has exercised no practical influence does but scant justice to much that is valuable in the critical phase of socialistic thought. A protest against undue extension of government activity is timely, but the method which passes on all such extension on the ground of *a priori* assumptions is radically defective.

S. J. MCLEAN.

La Viriculture. Ralentissement de la Population—Dégénérescence—Causes et Remèdes. Par G. DE MOLINARI. Paris: Guillaumin et Cie., 1897. 12mo. pp. 253.

THE motive of M. de Molinari's book is given in the subtitle, and it is a sufficiently curious motive for a book from an economist of his conservative position and wide range of learning. And the substance of the volume is perhaps no less curious, coming from such a source. The early chapters (i-viii) are taken up with an elementary exposition of the Malthusian premises, M. Molinari's contribution being a supplementary explanation—not altogether unfamiliar to Malthus—of how, as the outcome of the Malthusian factors, the population of Euro-

pean countries has kept pace in its advance or decline with the advance or decline of the nation's industrial productivity and with the extension and contraction of the market for the products of the national industries (chapters ix and x). France is especially unfortunate in having suffered a very sensible retardation in its rate of increase.

But this retardation of the rate of increase is not the most serious difficulty presented by the movement of population, and is not a sufficient cause for apprehension. The white race has nothing to fear from a failure of its numbers as compared with the rival yellow race, with which pessimists are fond of threatening us. The danger lies in the deterioration of the stock—visibly going forward today. The causes of the deterioration—the presence of which is inferred from a somewhat narrow range of data, some of which would bear a different interpretation from the one given them—are (p. 108):

1. Defects and diseases inherited from parents;
2. Ill-assorted unions of parents, comprising untoward crosses between races;
3. Unwise laws relating to marriage, and the artificial encouragement of population;
4. Insufficient care and nourishment, early and excessive child labor;
5. Prostitution.

It therefore appears that the questions of population have come to be so many and so important as to require the separation of this subject from the body of economic questions with which they have hitherto been classed. These questions taken by themselves are sufficient to make up the subject-matter of a special science which will draw its data, on the one hand, from the moral sciences—particularly from political economy—and, on the other hand, from the natural sciences—particularly from biology. This new science is Viriculture (p. 134).

It will be the office of this new science to find a remedy for the three grave difficulties of the present situation: (1) surplus or deficit of population, (2) degeneration, (3) prostitution. There are but the barest and most general indications given of the outlines of the new science. Under the first head there is a tentative suggestion that something might be accomplished by an intelligent and concerted statistical determination of the "demand" for population and the establishment of an equilibrium through the peoples' taking thought to multiply only up to the limit. Under the second it is likewise suggested, in similarly general terms, that something may be done

toward a maintenance of the present standard of the population, if not toward its improvement, by extirpation of disease and through selective breeding.

The appendix (pp. 163-250) is made up of notes drawn from a great variety of sources and of very diverse value. For the most part they comprise facts more or less familiar to all readers, and betray no eagerness in the writer to parade a recondite erudition.

V.

The Nicaragua Canal and the Monroe Doctrine. By L. M. KEASBEY. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1896. 8vo. pp. v + 621.

IN the preface the author prepares us for what follows by the statement that "if the narrative exhibits a national prejudice, it may be attributed to the fact that the book is written avowedly from the Monroe doctrine standpoint." The narrative, commencing with the discovery of America, exhibits how our rivals across the water have been teasing us by trespassing on our own distinctive playground, regardless of the notice to the contrary which we had posted as early as 1823, under the name of the Monroe Doctrine. This, the writer thinks, ought not to be so. In a hundred pages or more he calls attention to the fact that long ago there were dreams of cutting a canal across the isthmus. He then goes on to relate how our rivals always had the better of the argument in diplomacy because we did not stand firmly on the Monroe Doctrine. We thought we had done so by the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, which aimed to secure the neutrality of the canal. But, alas! it has been discovered quite recently that the doctrine means something quite different,—that it means that the United States is sovereign over the whole American continent; that "manifest destiny" makes us the natural protectors of the territory, but releases us from any responsibility for the people of the territory; that in all the affairs of this continent it is to be presumed that England acts with malicious intent, while the United States acts with wisdom and saintly unselfishness. From the book itself, however, it does not appear that any nation is trying to secure political control over isthmus transit, except the United States. But the vexatious Clayton-Bulwer treaty has been the stumbling-block to several jingo statesmen. The writer, however, finds a way out of the difficulty by disregarding treaties, crying